

2024 Club Officers*

President

*Brian Jones 408 300 3377
bfj39@yahoo.com

Vice President

Open

Secretary

*Dave Gilman 408 264 1953
Sanjosegilman@gmail.com

Treasurer

*Tony Bristol 408 280 7095
tbristol@earthlink.com

Webmaster/Newsletter

Jim Steinwinder 408 644 4090
callcps@aol.com

SJSC Blog

Ron Biell 408 323 8702
Rbiell-dsl@sbcglobal.net

Filatelice Fiesta 2024

Chairman

Brian Jones 408 300 3377
bfj39@yahoo.com

Bourse Chairman

Tom Kinberg 503 910 9552
stampartstamps@gmail.com

Club Website

www.sanjosesc.com

Club Blog

www.sjscblog.net

Filatelice Fiesta Website

www.filatelicefiesta.com

Correspondence:

San Jose Stamp Club
6469 Almaden Expy, Suite 80, PO Box 356
San Jose, CA 95120



the San Jose Stamp
Club on Facebook

American Philatelic Society Warns Public of Fraudulent Online Store *Updated 9/19*

9/19 Update: Fraudulent Website Shut Down

The APS is pleased to report that the fraudulent website www.superstampcenter.com has been shut down. Thank you to the many online sellers, especially the leadership and members of the **Internet Philatelic Dealers Association**, who lent their assistance to report the site and help remove it.

Please remain vigilant, as new, similar sites attempting to defraud collectors may appear in the future. If you encounter any site that appears to be cloning the listings of legitimate philatelic businesses, please contact the APS by emailing Kent Ball at kball@stamps.org.

The American Philatelic Society, a trusted name in the stamp collecting community, is issuing a warning to the public about a rogue online store, www.superstampcenter.com, that is engaging in fraudulent activities. This website has been found to be cloning the online stores and product descriptions of legitimate businesses, including the **APS Stamp Store**, other reputable sellers on HipStamp, and eBay.

Fraudulent Activities Identified

- **Cloning of Online Stores** The rogue website has copied the layout, design, and content of legitimate online stamp stores.
- **Fake Product Listings** They are posting products they do not possess, using descriptions and images from authentic sellers.
- **Discounted Prices** These fraudulent items are often listed at significantly discounted prices to lure unsuspecting buyers.
- **Impact on Consumers** Customers who purchase from this fraudulent site risk receiving counterfeit products or no products at all, leading to financial loss and disappointment. We urge the public to exercise caution and verify the authenticity of online stores before making any purchases.

Steps to Protect Yourself

1. **Verify Website Authenticity** Check the URL and ensure it matches the official website of the seller.
2. **Inspect the Business Operators** Check the business organization pages of the website to see if it seems a legitimate business. Such website pages might include the following: about, contact, customer service, returns, and shipping.
3. **Look for Reviews** Search for reviews and feedback from other customers.
4. **Contact the Seller** Reach out to the seller directly through verified contact information.
5. **Report Suspicious Activity** If you encounter a suspicious website, report it to the relevant authorities.

The American Philatelic Society is a leading authority in the stamp collecting community. We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity in the philatelic marketplace.

San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

October 2024

Table of Contents

Page

- 3 Children thru the Mail
- 4 King Batradz and the Holy Grail

Club Blog & Website

Blog Updates No Activity

Website Updates

September 2024 Newsletter uploaded

President's Message

It's the busy time of the year for club. Everyone is needed to contribute to in their own way. With all of us pitching in to the best of our ability, we can get great things done. Our annual show is just a blink of the eye away and we need to get seriously busy making it as good as it can be.

There are a couple of easier jobs at the show by helping at the registration table and hospitality. All it takes is being a polite and welcoming. If the guest is willing to talk, then engaging them in a conversation that includes visiting their local stamp club.

One of the bigger jobs that needs to get done is organizing the many donations our club has received. A big reason I keep accepting them is that there is SO MUCH variation in them. While the overwhelming majority of the stamps go to many charitable programs, there are still plenty of items for club members.

Recent donations have had better than average material from the US, Canada, UK, France, Israel, UN and others. Please help me process the donations and see if there is something that can help your collecting.

A few years ago, we used to have a winter/Christmas banquet. Want to have one this year? Let's get it going, but I need someone to take the lead on planning this. Perhaps we do this in January so we avoid conflicts with holiday plans.

I've been asking for months for someone to volunteer to serve as the club's vice president. It's not that big a job, but essential. Please talk to me about taking this job. We can craft it to fit your interests, skills, and abilities.

Let's hit our stride and have a heck of a good time building our collections and having a great time doing it together. However, I REALLY need help. I know some you have significant limitations on what you can do and I totally respect that. Let's pull together by each of us doing what we're able to do.

Let Filatelie Fiesta be the kind of show people will be glad they are happy they came.

Brian

Stamp Collecting Merit Badge Class

Our annual Scouting stamp collecting merit badge class was held on October 5th. While registration was down this year to only 11 Scouts, it was a success.

We supplied each Scout with a 3-ring binder loaded with Vario stock sheets, manila stock sheets, tongs, hinges, and a perforation gauge. It is hoped that this will support any youth who wants to continue to collect after completing the merit badge.

One really feels your age when you have to introduce the ideas of licking stamps and what airmail is. Not one of the students had ever had to lick a stamp as they as stamps have been peel and stick since they've been old enough to use a stamp.



Everyone deeply appreciated the opportunity to pick from such deep inventory of stamps to build the collection necessary for requirement #8 of the badge. It was an even split of collecting a country and topic.

The Scouts will be coming to Filatellic Fiesta on Sunday afternoon to get a tour of the show and sign-off their collection. The club can be proud of our work to offer this very rare merit badge to young people.

Up Coming Events:

Oct. 19 – 20: East Bay Stamp Show, Civic Center Assembly Hall

1375 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, Sat: 10-5, Sun 10-4

Nov 02 – 03: SACAPEX Stamp Show, Elks Lodge,

6446 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4

Nov 06: SJ Stamp Club Meeting, Community Room, Pearl Ave Library

4270 Pearl Ave, San Jose; starts at 7:00pm

Nov 16 – 17 Filatellic Fiesta, Napradak Hall

770 Montague Expressway, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4

Dec 07 – 08 PENPEX Stamp Show, Redwood City Community Center

1400 Roosevelt Ave, Redwood City, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-3:30

People used to send their children through the U.S. mail.

On January 1, 1913, the United States Post Office began offering parcel service. While private freight companies had already existed for quite some time, the program allowed many more people, including folks in rural communities, to get goods shipped to their front doors. Immediately, Americans started shipping pretty much anything they could think of. One of the first packages sent using the service was a brindle bulldog. College kids started mailing their laundry home. More than one Flushing, Queens, resident received an opossum. But the most brazen early parcel customers trusted the Post Office with was the most precious cargo of all human children.



The first recorded baby delivered via parcel post was James Beagle, an 8-month-old resident of Glen Este, Ohio. His journey wasn't long: A carrier picked up the "well wrapped" infant from his parents on January 25 and, per the address on an attached card, delivered him to his grandmother just a few miles away. The postage cost 15 cents, and his parents insured him for \$50.

This practice was never officially authorized, and in February 1914, the second assistant postmaster general announced that babies could not be transported by mail. But this didn't stop postal employees, particularly rural ones, from occasionally breaking the rules. Just a month later, a 14-pound baby was shipped 12 miles from her grandmother in Clear Spring, Maryland, to her mother in Indian Springs. On February 19, 1914, 5-year-old May Pierstorff was mailed about 75 miles from her home in Grangeville, Idaho, to her grandparents' place, which cost 53 cents in postage and was, apparently, cheaper than a train ticket. (In that case, she was chaperoned by a cousin who worked for the mail service.) In 1915, 6-year-old Edna Neff was mailed a whopping 720 miles from Pensacola, Florida, to her father's home in Christiansburg, Virginia.

That same year, on August 31, 1915, 3-year-old Maude Smith — with a shipping label sewn to her dress, appropriate postage affixed, and snacks in hand — was placed by her mail carrier on a train from Caney to Jackson, Kentucky, to visit her sick mother. When she arrived at her destination, she had a note from a postal clerk to a local postmaster pinned to her dress: "I doubt the legality of the sending, but it was put on the train and I must deliver and report." The U.S. Post Office actually investigated that case, and although it's unclear what the outcome was, Smith was one of the last children ever to be mailed.

King Batradz and the Holy Grail

Britain's most famous legend may have been a Russian myth

By Thomas Lowry

The Chronicle

What could be more British than King Arthur? Every aspect of his powerful legend — the chivalrous Round Table, the crafty Merlin, the pure Knight Galahad, the adulterous Lancelot, the elusive Holy Grail, Pendragon, Gawain, Camelot and Avalon, and finally the sword Excalibur, drawn from the stone and cast into the ominous lake — all these sing in the heart of every Englishman.



Arthurian Legends, Scott 1115-18

And yet, historians are coming to believe, there is a strong possibility that Arthur's roots were in what is today Ukraine. Impossible? Consider the Sarmatians.

What the Romans called Sarmatia was a group of tribes that came out of Asia six centuries before Christ and controlled southern Russia from around 400 B.C. to A.D. 400. They spoke an Iranian tongue, and like the related Scythians, were skilled mounted warriors.

These remarkable people have never been as familiar to the modern public as the ancient Egyptians or the Incas, but are well known to historians. Russian scholar Tadeusz Sulimirski, in his book "The Sarmatians" details their wanderings, which took them from Asia as far west as Italy, and the astonishing treasures they buried with their dead: diadems, bracelets, buckles, and crowns of gold, and in one grave opened by S.I. Rudenko in 1916, a coat of iron chain-mail.

This chain-mail coat, from before the time of Christ, reminds us that the Sarmatians were warriors, not farmers or philosophers. According to an article by a

Professor John W. Eadie, published in the *Journal of Roman Studies* in 1967, they borrowed, developed and perfected a remarkable technology of warfare: the hard saddle with a high frontal arch to steady the rider as he swung his long sword, a heavy lance, called *contus Sarmaticus* by the Romans, and the compound bow, first used by the Huns.

Helmut Nickel, retired curator of arms and armor at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, says the Sarmatians wore segmented metal helmets and scaled body armor, even their horses had scale covers. The resemblance to the chivalric knight is hard to miss — the metal armor, the long lance, the great sword (usually with a hand guard of semiprecious stones); they even carried a dragon banner fluttering in the breeze. But even more relevant, curator Nickel notes, the Sarmatians worshiped a sword stuck into a stone!

Which brings us to the strongest connection between the knights in shining armor and the Sarmatians — myth, particularly Ossetic myth.

The last remnants of Sarmatia are the Ossetes, a small tribe in the Caucasus mountains of modern Russia. Although surrounded by Georgians, the Ossetes speak an ancient Iranian language, utterly unlike their neighbors. And in that ancient tongue, they tell some curiously familiar epics.

According to Scott Littleton of Occidental College in Los Angeles, a band of mythic Ossetic heroes had as their noble leader Batradz, who had been mortally



Sarmatian cataphracts in Trajan's column, 2nd century CE.

wounded and was borne to the edge of great waters. He commanded his faithful companions to throw his magical sword into the water, so that he could be released from his suffering. His followers were loath to lose the great sword, so they hid it and reported that they had followed Badradz's wishes. However, only he knew what would happen when the sword entered the water, and he was not deceived. At last, his companions followed his command; with great effort, they hurled the sword into the deep water, which suddenly boiled blood red. They reported this astonishing event, and Badratz died content, his destiny fulfilled.

The parallel with Sir Bedivere's attempt to deceive Arthur by concealing Excalibur at the lake's edge is hard to overlook.

Another motif in Ossetic legend is the enchanted cup, Amonga. This wondrous vessel, an unending source of food and drink, could be possessed only by a man of great courage and flawless character. In Ossetic epics, there are endless quarrels as to who was worthy enough to have the cup reveal itself to him. In the 10th century Welsh poem, "Spoils of Annwyn," Arthur led a raid to capture the caldron Annwyn, which never runs dry and "... will not boil the meat of a coward or one forsworn," an uncanny resemblance to many Ossetic tales.



These striking parallels of the magic swords of Badradz and Arthur, of the enchanted lake, and of the holy cup and the Holy Grail are just three of the strongest of many mythic parallels. But if the Sarmatian horsemen and their epics did father the British knight and his Arthurian legends, how did they make the leap from the ancient steppes to Great Britain?

As it turns out, the leap is a part of recorded history — history written by the Roman Dio Cassius in the year 225 and translated in the 1927 Harvard edition of his works.

The Sarmatians, following their tradition as nomadic raiders, played havoc all along the northeast borders of the Roman Empire, invading and looting what are now Bulgaria and Romania. In the year 169, in a wild battle on the frozen Danube, the Roman infantrymen, who stood upon their shields to keep from slipping on



the ice, defeated the Sarmatians, whose horses skidded out of control on the slick surface.

The harsh terms of peace, dictated by Marcus Aurelius, included that 5,500 Sarmatian horsemen be sent to the northern border of Britain, to guard against raids by the wild Scots. Few of these Sarmatians ever returned home.

Sarmatian tombs, inscriptions and jewelry have been found near the modern northwestern English towns of Chester and Ribchester. A settlement of retired Sarmatian veterans existed near the British Roman fort of Bremetennacum (Ribchester) until the year 450.

G. Lloyd Morgan, archeologist at the Grovesnor Museum in Chester, has published several Roman inscriptions pertaining to garrisons of Sarmatian troops, and a gravestone with a carved Sarmatian horseman was found in 1890 in Chester.

Most histories of King Arthur place him around the year 500, only 50 years after the last proven Anglo-Sarmatian artifacts. So the jump from Sarmatia to ancient Britain may be a small one — certainly much smaller than the leap that took St. Nicholas from the 18th century Germany to department store Santa Claus in California.



Is the link between Arthur and Sarmatia proven? History, like science, is always unfolding. Research on the Arthurian legend goes on today. And tomorrow the Lady of the Lake may return the sword!

Thomas Lowry is a physician and freelance writer in Woodacre.

San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

October 2024

Club Member/Dealers

Ron Biell

Euro-Asian Stamps, P.O. Box 20562, San Jose, CA 95160
Phone: (408) 323-8702 **Fax:** 408) 323-8702 **Email:** rbiell-dsl@sbcglobal.net
Web Site: www.eurasiastamps.com
(China, Japan, Baltics, Russia, W. Europe, Covers Worldwide)

Doug Gary

Douglas Gary, P.O. Box 457, Campbell, CA 95009
Phone: (408) 274-3939 **Email:** doug_gary@hotmail.com
(USA & Worldwide Postal History, Stamps, Autographs, Postcards)

Deepak Jaiswal

Stampbay, Inc, PO Box 50848, Palo Alto, CA 94303
Phone: (650) 387-3885 **Fax:** (650) 561-4044 **Email:** info@stampbay.com
Web site: www.stampbay.com
(India including India used abroad)

Walt Kransky

Walts Postcards
Web Site: www.thepostcard.com **Email:** wrsky@att.net
(philatelic material, covers, postcards)

Gary Morris

Pacific Midwest Co., PO Box 730818, San Jose, CA 95173
Phone: (408) 532-7100 **Email:** garyuch@aol.com
www.ebay.com, Seller Name: superbstamps
(Hawaii Stamps & Covers, Other Worldwide Stamps, Linder and Lighthouse Stamp Supplies)

Denis Norrington

Arrow Stamp Company, San Francisco, California.
Phone: [415-425-6683](tel:415-425-6683) **Email:** denis@arrowstamp.co **Web site:** www.arrowstamp.com
(Worldwide Stamps and collections)